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The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian

No. 411. JANUARY, 1941.

FELLOWSHIP. REVERENCE. COMPASSION.

EPH. IV. 6—**"One in all, and all in One."**

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NOTES AND NEWS.

"Thou hast made one family, there and here: one living communion of seen and unseen. We had said, 'Thou layest men fast in everlasting sleep'; but lo! they sleep into everlasting waking." At the dawn of this New Year, 1941, we pause briefly to think of what our Church means; of the mutual understanding and courtesy which our fellowship entails; of the long ladder of evolution up which we climb and reverence to those who have attained heights beyond us and give us the aid of their compassion and wisdom, which we in our turn extend to forms of the lower kingdoms, filled also with the One Life, at lower rungs on the long ascent. From the lowest to the highest, all is embraced in the One consciousness; "not a sparrow falls to the ground unless your Father wills it."

* * *

The line of battle now is at our own door-step. True, one of the great scriptures of the world was given on a battle-field, the gem of Hindu scriptures, which Emerson said contained all things in heaven and earth. Four great facts emerge from it: (1) Universal Brotherhood, (2) War, (3) God, (4) The Glorious Company of Perfected Men, the Elder Brothers of our Race. With reference to War, the question is not whether wars should or should not have occurred, whether they are good or evil. The story of the Nations is a story of ever-recurring Wars. These four great Facts cannot be ignored and our Religion must take cognisance of them. They press themselves upon us every moment of the day, in the factory, in the kitchen, in the office, in the school; no duty is alien to the Divine Will.

"Whether losing, whether winning, trust in God and do the right!"

* * *

"When I go to Church, I like to have a good 'sing'!" was the remark of a visitor from Canada to Belfast, who had been to a fashionable church and found the congregation practically standing 'mum' during the hymn, and leaving the singing to the choir. We had heard that remark elsewhere, before. When John McNeill, the famous evangelist, last visited Belfast, he announced the psalm with the words:—

"Our God is gracious, nor will leave
The desolate to mourn,"

* * *

and as soon as that verse was completed, remarked: "It sounds pretty desolate; now then the next verse, with a bit more life in it!" and so septugenarian as he was, doubled his fist and led off with vigour. In our columns this month is a letter from the organist of York Street desiring us to give opportunity, for discussing this very important part of a church service in which 'praise' practically forms a third of the whole. An old lady who believed that she couldn't sing the praise of God high enough, was waited on by her vicar, who said: "Betty, I have come to speak to you about your singing!'

"The praise be not mine," she at once responded, "its a gift!"

* * *

In one of our English congregations, an old army-officer, years ago, went on a similar errand, to a church member who considered that he also had "a gift!" "I'm sure, I don't sing so loud!" was the reply. "My dear fellow," was the answer, "you have a voice like the very devil!"

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February, 1941, number published on Saturday, January 25th. Copy sent in before January 18th will be received by Rev. John Barron, Ballywalter, Co. Down.

* * *

PULPIT SUPPLY.—The Rev. J, Shaw Brown, 1 Greenmount Avenue, Manse Road, Bangor.

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The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian can be obtained at the Depository, 35 Rosemary Street, Belfast.

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PULPIT SUPPLY.—The Rev. W. Eakin, 103 Greenore Street, Belfast.

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Liberal Christians, whether Unitarian or Trinitarian, who are in Ulster at the present time, will always find a welcome in Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Churches.

* * *

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Will our friends who see to the sale of this Magazine, kindly endeavour to get new subscribers.

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A Legal Committee exists, under the auspices of the General Synod, to advise and assist congregations in legal matters. Apply to Clerk of Synod: Rev. J. Dare Davies, Moneyrea, nr. Comber.

"A WAY OUT OF TRINITARIAN CONTROVERSY."

This article is to be found in Vol. II. of the essays by Dr. Martineau, originally a sermon, first given to the public in 1886 in "The Christian Reformer." The following is an abstract by Prof. Upton in "Life and Letters." "The object is to show that the central religion, which is expressed by the contrasted forms of faith, is identical in each, and that Unitarians are 'all one with all Christendom in the very focus and fervour of its religious life.' He explains the functions of the three Persons of the Trinity as unfolded in the Creeds, and then poin s out that the Being whom Unitarians worship as the Father corresponds with the Second Person in Trinitarian theology, and that the Father, in the sense of the infinite primeval essence, without finite manifestation, 'is really absent from the Unitarian creed.' Trinitarian and Unitarian, then, alike worship Him whose attributes are 'creative thought, guiding Providence, redeeming grace,' and who was 'manifested through all ages by nature and history;' but concentrated with unique brilliancy in the character and existence, the holy life and redeeming work of Jesus, in whom the Spirit so dwelt without measure that he was the very 'Word made flesh,' the divine perfection on the scale, and united with the incidents of humanity. Thus 'the two are agreed, not by any means *throughout*, but in that which constitutes the pith and kernel of both faiths." The late Dean Stanley in a letter to the Rev. Stopford Brooke, declared himself to be "as much a Unitarian as Dr. Martineau."

SUBSIDY FUND.

Contributions should be addressed to Rev. A. Davison, Dromore, by whom they will be gratefully acknowledged.

The truths of the Bible will live for ever. They came from God, through the soul of man; they have exhausted neither God nor the soul. The indwelling Christ, who alone abideth for ever, has much to teach that the historic Jesus never knew, that the Bible never told. The Bible was made for man not man for the Bible, – Theodore Parker (1810-1868).

THE LATE VISCOUNT CRAIGAVON.

By the sudden death of Viscount Craigavon, the first Prime Minister of the Northern Ireland Parliament, Ulster has sustained an irreparable loss. A native of Co. Down, he had served his country and the Empire in the South African War of 1899-1901, where he attained the rank of Captain. Upon his return, he became member of Parliament for North Down in the Imperial House of Commons. During the years of the last Great War, he held important offices in the Imperial Government.

When the Parliament of Northern Ireland was formed, he became the chosen leader of his people, and his long experience in the Mother of Parliaments, stood him in good stead when he was called upon to undertake the responsible office of Prime Minister. It was an honoured—but at that time, not an enviable office. The whole country was in the throes of civil strife—a large section of the people, especially in the South, had ceased to respect law and order. Terrorism was abroad; fear and despair had singed the hearts of many; life and property were in jeopardy.

The Prime Minister and his colleagues was faced, not only with the tremendous task of laying secure foundations for the newly-created State, but also with the restoration of law and order in the Province. We, who witnessed those beginnings, and watched the growth and development of the young State, know full well how nobly the late Premier and his Cabinet grappled with that dangerous and difficult situation, and soon brought order out of chaos and peace from strife.

Viscount Carigavon's wise outlook, his tenacity and singleness of purpose, proved a tower of confidence and strength to the people of Ulster.

The measure of a man is the quality of his spirit, and the secret of the late Premier's power and popularity lay in his warm and friendly nature.

"Woe unto you when all men speak well of you." Thus the ancient words warns us. The late Premier experienced as much criticism as most men living—but it never embittered his spirit, and even his most determined opponents all testified to his kindly heart, his friendliness and gentlemanly qualities. He was a courageous, but clean warrior. He will have an honoured and abiding place in the annals of his native land, the land he loved and served with true devotion and integrity.

To Viscountess Craigavon and her family, we extend sincerest sympathy in their great sorrow and loss.—J.G.D.

THE RT. HON. JOHN M. ANDREWS, D.L., M.P.

The sympathy of our people will go out in full measure to the Right Hon. John M. Andrews, D.L., M.P., at the passing of the Prime Minister, the late Viscount Craigavon, under whom he served with loyalty and devotion for nineteen years, as Minister of Labour and latterly as Minister of Finance. We are well aware that they regarded each other with an affectionate esteem and each shared the full confidence of the other.

The severance of that long and close friendship is a sad experience to Mr. Andrews, and he may be assured of wide-spread sympathy.

But mingled with that deep feeling of sympathy, there is gladness and gratification in our hearts that he has been so signally honoured by His Majesty the King, through his Deputy, the Governor, with the Premiership of the Parliament of Northern Ireland. It is universally recognised that Mr. Andrews is highly worthy of the honour, and we feel confident that he will discharge the onerous and responsible duties of his high office with the same loyalty and efficiency as his honoured predecessor.

We realise the magnitude of the task he has undertaken, and the special difficulties and problems of this war-time period, but we feel assured that the highest welfare of our Province is safe in his hands. We pray that God may bless all his undertakings, and grant him health and strength to realise his most cherished dreams and ideals.

He may be assured that the earnest prayers of our people will be with him in the days and tasks that lie before him.

The new Prime Minister bears an honoured name—a name already famous in the story of our country's service.

His father, the late Right Hon. Thomas Andrews, D.L., and his uncle, the late Judge William Drennan Andrews, each in his sphere, rendered signal service to their country; and are remembered with gratitude and affection. His brother, the Right Hon. the Lord Chief Justice, is adding lustre to the name, not only by his distinguished services in the Judiciary of the Northern Ireland, but also by his keen and active interest in every benevolent movement in the Province. Another brother is Capt. William Andrews, of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. The citizens of Ulster will remember for many a long day, his brother, the late Mr. Tom Andrews, builder of the Titanic, whose tragic and early death was an incalculable loss to his country and to the shipbuilding world.

Thus the new Premier is following in the path of a proud and worthy tradition, and Northern Ireland will still be led by a man of the finest integrity of character, and by a personality dedicated to its service.

In his home town of Comber, where he is best known, he enjoys the confidence and highest respect of his fellow-citizens.

In his Church he is held in warm affection by his fellow-worshippers. His example is an inspiration and his faithfulness is a matter of gratitude and joy. Our best wishes go with him.

—J.G.D.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor "Non-Subscribing Presbyterian," Ballywalter.

Dear Sir,—May I be permitted to make a suggestion concerning "The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian."

Would it be possible under present conditions to allow a column to the musical side of our church services?

I would suggest articles by our organists and choir members, in town and country dealing with problems and difficulties, helps and suggestions, and not forgetting to invite criticisms from pew and pulpit, either constructive or destructive.

This column might also include questions relating to music, hymns, anthems, etc., which could be answered.

The history or story of hymns, how tunes are composed, would open up a new field and might be of interest to the members of our congregations, who often look upon hymns and tunes, as merely words put to a tune, and taken for granted.

Perhaps the views of other organists, choir members and others interested in music and choral work might be obtained, regarding this suggestion, and the column be used to mutual benefit by choristers and congregation, not to mention the organist.

Hoping you will give this suggestion your kind consideration.

Yours sincerely,

NORMAN R. WOOLLEY.

"THE NEW HYMNAL."

Ulster Bank House,
Castlewellan,
30th November, 1940.

Dear Sir,—Clough congregation use the above Hymn Book (published by Novello, 1905) and require a few extra copies.

Unfortunately the book appears to be out of print.

If any congregation, which has used and superseded this book, has a few copies to spare, I should be glad if they would get in touch with Mr. Hugh Shaw, Drumaroad, Castlewellan, Secretary of the Congregation, or with the undersigned.

Yours, etc.,
J. B. MINISS.

Lawrence House Hostel, 1 Essex Street, London, W.C.2., is closed until further notice owing to the present situation in London.

REPORTS.

War Weapons Week. — An appeal through the Moderator, to the congregations, was read out or referred to, from the pulpits, on Sunday, December 1st (Advent Sunday), the beginning of "Ulster's War Weapons Week"—when a start was made to raise £5,000,000, the purchase price of a flotilla of destroyers. "Think not that I have come to bring peace upon earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword." This is the climax of an age-old struggle between God and mammon that must be fought out to the bitter end.

Ballyclare.—Mr. and Mrs. Payne, the parents of the Rev. W. Howard Payne, who are residing with him at the Old Manse, Ballyclare, celebrate their Golden Wedding on December 23rd. The many friends of Mr. Payne, in Northern Ireland, we are assured, will cordially approve of our expressing through these columns their good wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Payne, who because of present war conditions have had for a time to make their home with their son. Under normal conditions, at their home in Wales the event would have been marked by a special celebration. Rev. W. H. Payne's two sisters are expected over for the occasion.

Ballycarry. — After a lengthened pastorate of over 42 years the Rev. William G. Marsden has, for health reasons, been compelled to resign his charge of the Old Presbyterian (Unitarian) Church at Ballycarry. An Englishman by birth and education, Mr. Marsden was called to the service of the church in Ballycarry in 1898 when he followed the Rev. Moore Getty who died some months previously after having ministered in Ballycarry for 44 years.

Rev. Mr. Marsden was the eighth minister of the old and historic church at Ballycarry; according to an historical record the congregation of Ballycarry or, as it was formerly called, from the district or county in which it is situated, Broadisland is commonly supposed to be the oldest Presbyterian congregation in Ireland.

There is little doubt that, in point of time, it was the first congregation in Ulster which at the beginning of the seventeenth century was settled with a minister from Scotland. Up to the year 1661 its ministers, like those of other Presbyterian congregations of the day — although undoubtedly and avowedly Presbyterian—yet submitted after a fashion to Episcopal ordination, and although using that Presbyterian form of worship yet officiated in their respective Parish churches, and their names appeared in the Visitation Books of the Diocese of Down and Connor.

The first minister of Broadisland was the Rev. Edward Brice, M.A., his pastorate extending from 1613 to 1630. McShimmin, in his history of Carrickfergus, mentions a tradition that "Brice preached alternately in the Parish of Templecorran, alias Brailisland, and in the church of Ballykeel, Islandmagee." It is further recorded in the Ulster Visitation Book of 1622 that "Edward Brice, M.A., serveth the cures of Templecorran and Kilroot."

The inscription on the tombstone, which may still be seen at the old church in Ballycarry, is as follows:— "Neare this lyeth the body of that faithfull and emenent servant of God, Mr. Edward Brice who begun preaching of the Gospel in this Parish 1613 continueing with quiet succes 1630 in which he dyed, aged 67, and left two sons and two daughters."

The early ministers of Ballycarry congregation had protracted pastorates. Its second minister, Rev. Robert Cunningham, preached there for 52 years, the third minister, Rev. James Cobham, 59 years, and its fourth minister, Rev. John Bankhead (1763 to 1833) — 70 years. Successive ministers were Revs. William Glendy, Thomas O'Gorman, Moore Getty, and Rev. William G. Marsden.

The problem of securing a successor to Mr. Marsden will, it is stated, be accentuated by war conditions, and, in the meantime, with an afternoon service only, the pulpit is being regularly supplied by various ministers of the Church. Mr. Getty remained at the Manse a year after Mr. Marsden came.

A gratifying feature in connection with Mr. Marsden's retirement from the

active duties of the ministry is that it does not involve his removal from the district which he has served so faithfully. He intends to remain in Ballycarry where his two sons are engaged in the farming industry. Mrs. Marsden, who was an indefatigable worker in the church and other spheres of Christian activity, died in the summer of 1939. She was one of the founders of the Ballycarry and Islandmagee District Nursing Association, of which she was hon. secretary.—"Larne Times."

Belfast, York Street.—Now that the Centenary is over the congregation is settling down to the two great tasks before it. The one is immediate. It is to prevent any falling back during the present most difficult times. Before the war the yearly expenses were just met when the Church was kept full every Sunday and activities all making some profit occupied almost every night. The war removed one large section of regular attenders completely, those who came from the country, and as time has gone on more and more of the active members are working on Sunday while few profit making activities are possible. What has been done to meet the situation may some day be regarded as a greater accomplishment than others more spectacular such as the filling of the Ulster Hall. By a splendid effort something like half our members have maintained an attendance equal to that of pre-war times and even increased it on several occasions. Particular credit goes to some of our older members who live at considerable distances and are present three times on Sunday. Others who cannot attend have increased their stipends to make up for their absence. We hope that by these efforts we shall avoid debt at least this year. What can happen, and what may happen, is illustrated by our harvest services. Usually scores are turned away on this Sunday and members are asked not to attend to allow more room. The special collections make up just what is required at the year end to balance our budget. This year however a certain happening led to the Church not being full. There was a considerable loss but more anxiety as to what might happen on the next Sunday. We were much relieved to find the Church full again but it was a warning of what might happen to our evening congregation in certain eventualities. The loss of a service might mean very little to most congregations. To us it would mean the loss of a considerable portion of our barely adequate income and the burden put on our people for many years has been such that there would be no way of meeting the debt. The indirect results would be even more disastrous.

The second task is to build up the Endowment Fund. Every economy we can practice and every shilling we can raise and spare is being devoted to this purpose and the Fund stands at the moment at £1,180. Of this amount about £700 remains for investment which will give the Church an additional income of £30 a year. We can only hope that the war will not produce in the near future the situation which the Fund is intended to meet at some more distant date when it may be adequate for the purpose. There is not one Non-Subscribing Church that we know of which could guarantee that it would always be able to have every seat full with a congregation willing to pay heavily to maintain it and we cannot hope always to have it. In that case unless some endowment can be created our Church must close down even with a larger congregation than the average with the loss of all the work done in it and some three thousand pounds spent to make it what it is to-day. We therefore appeal once more to any who can help to do so however small that help may be. Out of almost £1,200 raised by this our first appeal £350 has been subscribed in the denomination and that by some hundred people. Yet there are some thousands of stipend payers and many hundreds of non-stipend payers in the Non-Subscribing Church most of them as well off as the members of any other denomination. Many of them deplore the fact that our cause is not advancing and ask why we do not build new churches like the scores built round Belfast in recent years. The reason is very simple. £10,000 has been spent by one denomination in our district for building a new church where there are several already.

The bulk of this latter sum has been raised by working people who give to Foreign Missions and many other causes as well. York Street is practically a new church and a new congregation added to our body which has more need of it than any other. Yet when an appeal is made merely to ensure its future a hundred people out of some thousands respond and all that has been done can be lost again when even a few shillings from all would save it and enable it to grow even greater. The position could not exist in any other denomination and it has aroused much comment and inquiry amongst visitors and amongst new members of our own used to the ways of more enthusiastic churches. We earnestly hope that some at least will still respond. Meanwhile all that can be done by ourselves is being done.

We are happy to report that the November Communion Service was almost as well attended as in normal times. Ten guineas was sent to the General Assembly in response to the appeal to assist our English churches. Increasing numbers of Service men and women are attending the church. They are being entertained on Sunday by a quiet effort on the part of our ladies but seem to be particularly pleased to be treated just as all our visitors have always been in other days.

Endowment Fund. — Further contributions sent direct — Alderman F. Pierce £1, Mr. Harold Thomas £5, Miss Mercer £1, Mr. J. Radcliffe, sen. £1, First Church Friend £10 10s, Rev. J. McCleery, jun. £1, Mr. J. Drennan Radcliffe £2 2s, Rev. W. G. Marsden £1, Dr. Wm. Caldwell £5, A Friend £1, Mr. F. Gibson (Stanhope Street) 10/-, In Memoriam Joseph Watson £30, Rev. A. W. Vallance, Manchester 10/6. Total contributions sent direct £347. Total fund £1,201.

The second Model Parliament held on 27th November was a great success. The excellence of the speeches and very careful preparation by the younger members were the topic of much comment. It is hoped to hold another on January 13th, when the older members will become "back benchers." Both the young people and their parents appreciate the value of the training. Dr. Agnew takes each of the speakers individually and they have practice in the Hall. A considerable amount of typing has been done by Miss J. Bruce and hard work by many. Mr. J. Radcliffe, B.A., is to be congratulated on introducing this idea to our churches. Attendances have been remarkably well maintained and it is astonishing to many to see the church still full on the worst nights and we are proud of the splendid loyalty of our people which keeps it so. Members of the forces are taking part in all our activities and giving much help.

First Church, Belfast. — Selections from "The Messiah" were rendered by the church choir on the evening of Sunday, December 15th, and attracted a number of visitors to the church. The minister preached at the same service on "The Messianic Hope." A Christmas Carol service is to take place on the evening of December 22nd.

The Women's League has again been favoured with a visit from Mi ss Praeger of Holywood, who, on November 19th, addressed the League on "Reminiscences"—a very delightful and human narrative.

The Junior Women's League organised a dance on November 27th, which was well supported and proved very enjoyable. The Junior League have been devoting one night per week recently to carol singing, and have visited various members in this way.

Recent meetings of the Discussion Circle have included a debate on "That Unitarianism tends to stress too exclusively the Ethical and Practical sides of Religion," and another on "That Men get the kind of Government they deserve," both of which proved highly entertaining and enjoyable. The Circle was also indebted to Miss Violet Chambers for a very informative lecture on December 1st, on "Modern Trends in Education." A further activity was a whist drive arranged for the evening of December 16th. This was but sparsely attended (possibly owing to the proximity of Christmas), but proved very enjoyable to those present.

The Church has lost one of its oldest stipend payers in the person of Mrs. Sarah Elizabeth Blair, who passed away

peacefully, after a short illness, on December 13th. She was deeply devoted to the Church, and was one of a family that has figured large in our history and traditions. Mrs. Blair was greatly esteemed and admired in our fellowship.

A further tragic loss has been that of Captain William Scott McCrum, who died on active service in a Belfast military hospital, on December 3rd, at an untimely early age. He was in former years, before his removal from Belfast, very active in our church fellowship and its institutions, and was held in high regard. His father has been School superintendent, and a prominent member of the Church, for very many years. Captain McCrum's death came as a great shock to him and other members of his family.

We extend our respectful sympathy to the two families thus bereaved.

Clough—A special service for soldiers and civil defence units was held at Clough Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church on Sunday, Dec. 15th at 2-30 p m., followed by tea provided by members of the church. The militar was represented by a contingent of R.A.S.C. from a nearby camp. Some sixty members of the Local Defence Volunteers, in their sombre uniforms, together with a number of "B Specials" and the local A.R.P. personnel marched to the church, led by pipers in the picturesque uniforms of a Scots regiment. The service was conducted by the minister, Rev. William Holden, Miss M. Kirkpatrick presiding at the organ, and concluded by the singing of the National Anthem. Expressions of thanks and a desire that the service be repeated, was responded to by the minister.

Another innovation at this church is the service to be held on Christmas day at 11-30 a m. It is anticipated that it will be well attended.

Mountpottinger—On Sunday evening, 8th Dec., notwithstanding the inclement weather, a large congregation assembled for the Carol Service, which had been arranged by Miss A. Beattie, who had valuable co-operation from Mr. L. Watters in training the Sunday-school scholars who augmented the choir.

The service opened with the Introit, "Silent Night," which was sung by the scholars who were grouped round a Christmas Tree, festooned with coloured electric lamps, the overhead lighting being switched off during this rendering.

The carols chosen were "God rest you merry gentlemen," "As Joseph was a-walking," "Myn Lyking," and "Good King Wenceslas," this latter being sung by Miss Annie Semple, with chorus by the scholars. Short Scripture readings were given by three of the girl scholars in the persons of Ella Catherwood, Maureen Kirkpatrick and Audrey McIlwaine.

The soloists were Miss Peggy Atkinson, Miss A. Semple and Messrs. A. Dempster, Eddie Gardiner and Noel Kirkpatrick, whilst Mr. H Shepherd. the church organist, provided the accompaniments.

The Flower secretary, Mrs. E. R. Jackson, was responsible for the Christmas Tree and the decorations on the Communion table.

By desire of the promoter a portion of the collection will be given to Dr. Barnado's Homes.

Mr. W. Watters was responsible for the electric lighting on the Christmas tree.

Ravara—The harvest thanksgiving service was held on Sunday, Oct. 27th at 3-30 p.m. The meeting-house was tastefully decorated for the occasion with flowers, fruit and corn by ladies of the congregation. The service was conducted by the moderator, the Rt. Rev. J. G. Davies, whose sermon was very impressive and highly appreciated by a large congregation in which there were many representatives from neighbouring churches.

In spite of war conditions, the attendance was quite up to the usual on such occasions. The singing of the harvest hymns was hearty and inspiring. Mrs. McCartney presided at the organ.

Moneyrea—The Sunday school Xmas party was held on Saturday evening, 14th Dec., in the Old School. The scholars were entertained to tea, which was excellent and abundant, and to which full justice was done. Miss R. Kennedy, Mrs. Davies, Miss Dempster, Miss McCullough and Miss Megraw presided at the tables.

The Xmas tree was very conspicuous, covered over with "snow" and "frost," and laden with a whole array of attractive gifts, which in due course were distributed among the children.

Valuable book prizes were presented to scholars for attendance during the year, by Miss F. McCullough. There was also a programe of community songs and games, in

which all joined in The minister thanked the ladies and Messrs. R. Smith and D. Girvan for the kind assistance in making the party such a great success. The arrangements were ably carried out by Miss Kennedy.

Presbytery of Bangor, R.S.U.—Presbytery met on Tuesday, December 17th, in the Old Vestry, First Presbyterian Church, Belfast. An application was received from the Rev. John Alexander Kelly to be released from the charge of the congregation at Dunmurry on account of declining health. In consideration of the fact that Mr. Kelly had been a member of the Presbytery for sixty years (Rademon 1880-96; Dunmurry 1896-) the Presbytery approved the appointment of an Assistant-and-Successor. A resolution was agreed upon for record in the minutes, expressing the very high esteem of Mr. Kelly, and of the valuable work done by him within the Presbytery and in the denomination. The Rev. J J. Magill, B.A., was deputed to declare the pulpit at Dunmurry vacant on January 5th, 1941, and a rota of preachers was made out for the ensuing quarter.

Killinchy Women's League—Two very successful Whist Drives have been held in Ardmillan Orange Hall, the first on Nov. 15th, in aid of The Shipwrecked Fisheries and Mariners Royal Benevolent Society, and the second on Dec. 13th, the first of a series of monthly Whist Drives to raise funds for a Heating Apparatus for the Church Hall. In spite of adverse weather conditions both events were well supported. Prizes at November Drive were presented by Mrs. J. McConnell to the following; 1. Miss E. Haye; 2. Miss A. Bailie; 3. Mrs. J. McConnell. Consolation, Mrs. I. Price Gentlemen, 1. Mr. Black; 2. Mr. W. Gibson; 3. Mr. A. Annett, Consolation, Mr. A. Jellie. Mrs. H. Morrow presented prizes at December Drive. Ladies, 1. Miss B. McGiffert; 2. Miss Middleton; 3. Miss G. Morrison, Consolation, Mrs. James McCann. Gentlemen, 1. Mr. W. Morrow; 2. Mr. D. Dornan; 3. Mr. W. Jellie, Consolation, Mr. Junior Finlay.

Thanks are due to members of the League who supply cake and contribute prizes so generously. We are also indebted to members of Ardmillan Lodge, for the free use of their fine Hall.

Whate'er thou lovest, man; become thou must;
God if thou lovest God! dust if thou lovest dust!
—AUGUSTINE.

COMFORTS FOR THE FORCES.

Dear Editor,—Please thank the following people—they have earned the thanks of the men as expressed in the extracts of letters received from some of the men.

I have written or sent cards or parcels to all the men whose addresses were sent to me. Larne sent parcels of woollens and cigarettes to all their men. Comber and First Church did likewise.

Miss Dorothy Kennedy and Miss Helen Ferguson, Mrs. Frank Robinson and Mrs Alice Hutchinson sent enough cards for all the men. Mrs. Frank Robinson sent 5/- towards the postage. The Misses Montgomery (All Souls) 10/- for Christmas cheer, as did Rev. and Mrs. R W. Wilde, Mrs. McIlwrath 2/6, Miss A. Parker 5/-, Mrs. Hall (Downpatrick) 4/6. A large parcel of woollens from Larne, First Church and Junior Women's League, Killinchy W.L., Mrs. Ashworth, Mountpottinger W.L., Miss Morrow (Comber). A welcome gift of khaki handerchieves from First Church. To all of these many thanks.

"Very acceptable parcel as it is very cold, especially at 5 a m. Please thank all."

"Many thanks. I cannot express myself enough to thank both you and your fellow members for same. The ordeal that we are now going through is bad, but the people here are just grand, their morale and spirit and courage is unbreakable, and so make our task a lot easier for they give us heart to get on with things and get what we all desire – victory and a just peace."

"Just a line or two in appreciation of your presents I have sent a line to each of the ladies who knitted the gifts. I received a little booklet from London entitled "Courage and Confidence." It has great reading in it and the old favourite hymns."

"These few lines will I hope convey my gratitude to you, as it was wonderful, for everything received will be useful. Thanks once more, wishing you and all the members of the League all the best, and I am sure whoever the other 86 boys are, they will join me in that wish."

With the best wishes for the New Year to all those who have thought of the welfare of "our boys."

I am yours sincerely,
EDITH DAVIES.

The Manse,
Comber.
Dec. 18th, 1940.

OBITUARY.

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Mrs. Hunter, Crumlin.

Mrs. Hunter of "Ardmore," Lough Shore, Crumlin, passed away in her 75th year on Saturday, December 14th. Brave and cheerful, she was an inspiration to those privileged to enjoy her friendship. No better epitaph could be spoken than that of one of the mourners, "A fine woman." She was interred in the New Cemetery, Antrim, on Monday, December 16th, the Rev. John Hinkins officiating at the house and the grave-side. The Rev F M. Brye s, Presbyterian minister of Crumlin, and the Rev. G. V. Crook were among the large company showing respect for the deceased. Deep sympathy is felt for the husband, the sons and daughter in their loss.

Antrim—On the 22nd of December a military parade service was held at 10-30 a.m. under the command of Lt. F. G. Taylor, and the little old Presbyterian Church was filled to its utmost capacity. The congregation comprised of troops from the Western Isles, and cities and villages of Great Britain enjoyed worship together. With lusty voices the beams of this old church re-echoed with the Christmas Carols so dear to all. The service was conducted by the Rev. G Crook, who welcomed the troops to his church, and hoped the Spirit of One, whose anniversary of Birth was being celebrated, would permeate all, not only at this festival, but throughout Life. Kind friends, assisted by troops, had decorated the church with holly and Xmas trees, and the appreciation of all present was witnessed by the intense interest with which the service was followed. To the officer in charge, steeped with the tradition of the Unitarian faith, it was a double event, for apart from Xmas it was the first time in 25 years of military service, a church of his faith, had been easy of access to personnel under his command, whereby they could follow him to worship in the freedom of thought, associated with his faith and that of his followers.

He must have been a Scots boy who, in his essay on the tribute money (Matt. xxii, 20), wrote, "And the Lord took the penny in his hand and asked, Whose subscription is this?"

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